

Thank you again, Pastor Dillard. We appreciate your friendship and your sermon this morning.

□ 1215

INFRASTRUCTURE

(Mr. CARNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CARNEY. Mr. Speaker, if you drive down Interstate 95 in my home State of Delaware right now, you will see license plates from up and down the Northeast corridor that are crawling at a snail's pace. As a result of structural damage, a bridge that carries 90,000 cars a day is closed until after Labor Day.

In Delaware, we are feeling the importance of investing in our Nation's infrastructure firsthand. It is critical for public safety, but it is also important for commerce, tourism, and our quality of life. Just as important, building roads and bridges creates jobs for workers right here in America.

If Congress does nothing, the highway trust fund won't have enough money to pay its bills come the end of the summer. That is the source of money that pays for building and repairing roads and bridges all throughout the country. Finding the funds to fix our Nation's crumbling infrastructure will not be easy, but putting it off is not an option.

I urge my colleagues to find the political will to fund the highway trust fund and ensure that our Nation's infrastructure reflects our 21st century needs.

WORKFORCE INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITY ACT

(Mr. YODER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, the House is back in session to continue our work, but millions of hardworking Americans still find it difficult to get those good-paying jobs to keep their American Dreams alive.

Small businesses, responsible for two-thirds of all new jobs created in our economy, continue to struggle to stay afloat. That is why the House must pass pro-jobs legislation to provide economic opportunities for all Americans to succeed.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, we have passed 40 bills that reduce red tape for businesses, lower electric bills for American families, cut regulatory burdens, and reform the Tax Code. Sadly, these bills are held up in the Senate.

Now, we can continue to help hardworking Americans by passing the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act—bipartisan legislation that promotes needed job skills training for high-demand jobs, streamlines burdensome Federal mandates, reduces administrative costs and unnecessary bu-

reaucracy, and provides more accountability when spending tax dollars.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this commonsense legislation. These are the kinds of pro-growth, pro-jobs bills the American people expect from their Congress.

ECONOMY

(Mrs. DAVIS of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, last week, we learned that employers added 1.4 million jobs in the first 6 months of this year. That is the strongest 6 months for growth since 2006, and it is great news for many American families, but there is more we can and that we should be doing.

The other day, I was fortunate enough to attend the White House Summit on Working Families, where business leaders, advocates, legislators, and Americans from all walks of life all came together to discuss issues facing working parents.

Mr. Speaker, the American workforce has changed dramatically in recent decades, and the workplace must change with it. More and more women are now the primary breadwinners for their families, but they still lack the support they need to balance work with their responsibilities at home.

Sadly, instead of considering initiatives to improve the lives of working families and of strengthening the middle class, this House is stuck playing politics. This week, the House majority announced plans for a 3-week process to sue President Obama—no word yet on what they plan to sue him for.

The American people deserve better. We need to move ahead on the issues that concern the American people.

BRING BACK OUR GIRLS

(Ms. WILSON of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am asking the world to join together, as we refuse to let the abducted Nigerian girls vanish from the international headlines, by tweeting every day from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., eastern standard time, using #bringbackourgirls and #joinrepwilson.

We have heard President Goodluck Jonathan of Nigeria speak about the resources his country used to try to find the girls, and we have read about your role in developing a concealed rescue plan.

Mr. Speaker, we know that these are excuses from Nigeria. We have seen unconscionable acts of terror committed almost daily. We have seen the military officially wrap up its investigation into the kidnapping, without locating the girls.

We have seen President Jonathan spend over \$1 million in a public relations campaign in an attempt to reshape his image.

President Jonathan, we are still waiting to see you bring home those kidnapped girls.

Tweet, tweet, tweet. Tweet, tweet, tweet. Bring back our girls.

LET THIS HOUSE WORK ITS WILL

(Mr. HIMES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, like so many of us, I was home last week, listening to my constituents talk and be concerned about dysfunction, and I discovered that there is a great deal of confusion about what dysfunction is.

My friend from the other side of the aisle just said they have sent all kinds of bills over to the Senate where they are held up—held up in the Senate. This is not dysfunction.

It may not be happy for my friends on the other side of the aisle, but the Senate is held by the Democrats. If you send them legislation that is inspired by the Tea Party, they are not going to pass that. That is not dysfunction. That is a refusal to govern.

Meanwhile, Mr. Speaker, over here, there are five bills, and if they were brought to the floor today, they would pass with significant majorities. Each and every one of them would help the economy and create jobs.

The reauthorization of the Ex-Im Bank, comprehensive immigration reform, topping up the highway trust fund, extending unemployment insurance, and terrorism risk insurance are five bills that we could pass today.

The American people need to understand, as they think about dysfunction, that those bills will not be brought up. This House will not work its will. It will not be allowed to work its will.

Mr. Speaker, let this House work its will.

HIGHWAY TRUST FUND

(Ms. TITUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, in just a few days, the highway trust fund will become insolvent. Now, that sounds shocking, but it is really not news. In fact, we were warned of this possibility in a GAO report issued in March of 2012; yet here we are, with just a few weeks to go before we fall off yet another manmade cliff, and still no solution has been brought to the floor for a vote.

This irresponsible inaction by my colleagues from across the aisle is inflicting damage on the Nation's economy and on States across the country. In Nevada alone, over 100 projects are in danger of being delayed or canceled, affecting some 6,000 construction workers, their families, and ancillary businesses that are associated with them.

This includes six multimillion-dollar improvements to I-15, which is the

main north-south corridor that runs through the heart of Las Vegas.

We cannot afford, nor can we risk kicking this can down an already deteriorated road. It is time for Congress to step up, to come together, and to offer real solutions that invest in our future.

NIGERIA

(Ms. BASS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to make sure that we continue to address the threat of Boko Haram and to make sure we continue to work with the country of Nigeria.

It has been over 2 months since Boko Haram kidnapped nearly 300 girls from their school in northern Nigeria. To many Americans, this was the first time they had heard of Boko Haram, even though the organization has been attacking, kidnapping, and killing innocent Nigerians since 2009, but Nigeria is much more than Boko Haram.

I recently traveled to Nigeria with Commerce Secretary Penny Pritzker and 20 American companies on an energy business development trade mission. Nigeria is Africa's economic powerhouse that has incredible potential for partnership with American businesses.

Nigeria recently surpassed South Africa as the largest economy in Africa, and with a population of nearly 170 million people, partnering with Nigerian businesses will benefit the American economy.

Although we must continue our efforts to fight Boko Haram, we need to also make sure we engage Nigeria as our partner.

EXTENDING UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

(Mr. KILDEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, today, millions of Americans across the country need emergency unemployment insurance to support their families—to provide for their very basic needs—as those hardworking Americans have lost their previous jobs and are simply in search of their next opportunities, through no fault of their own.

Somehow, this issue has been turned into a partisan issue. It is not a partisan issue back home. There is no such thing as a Democratic or a Republican unemployed person. They are unemployed, and they are looking for all the help they can get.

The week before last, I and three of my Democratic colleagues and Mr. LOBIONDO—a Republican—and three of his colleagues introduced a bipartisan unemployment insurance extension. It is a mirror image of the language that has been introduced by Mr. REED and Mr. HELLER in the Senate. This is a bipartisan bill. We can take this up right now.

Is it the bill that I would have written by myself? No. In fact, I did submit an extension of unemployment that the House has not taken up, but we have compromised. We ought to do the work of the American people.

We have a bipartisan bill to extend unemployment insurance. The House should take it up immediately. Millions of Americans need it, and it is upon us to take this action.

LINKS, INC.

(Mrs. BEATTY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BEATTY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join with others across the Nation to ask Congress to pass the Voting Rights Amendment Act.

I had the distinct pleasure to join near our Capitol last week with some 3,000 members of Links, Incorporated, at the national assembly and with the 15th national president and chair of KeyBank, Margot James Copeland, and with the national legislative chair and OhioHealth's president, Karen Morrison, of their foundation to lead a resolution to support the Voting Rights Act of America.

Links members proudly voted in support of a resolution, calling on Congress to pass the Voting Rights Amendment Act, H.R. 3899.

Martin Luther King, Jr., said:

Our feet are tired, but our souls are rested. Let us say the same of ourselves as we continue the unfinished work of ensuring that every American cannot only vote, but has the freedom, the justice, and the dignity that all individuals rightly deserve.

Let us join together as Democrats and Republicans and pass the Voting Rights Act.

HOLY LAND BAKERY AND DELI

(Mr. ELLISON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to congratulate a small business in my community on its 25 great years.

Holy Land Bakery and Deli has become a quintessential part of our town of Minneapolis. Holy Land is not only a good place to go to have a bite, but it is also a great place for social space.

Recently, they expanded their facility in honor of their 21st anniversary, and they really feel proud about that because they have been providing jobs and opportunities for so many years.

The CEO of Holy Land restaurant is Mr. Majdi Wadi and his brother, Wajdi Wadi; and they provide really excellent food that they prepare based on recipes that their mother gave them when she emigrated from Palestine many years ago.

For every small business person in America, including the Holy Land Bakery and Deli, happy 25 years to them.

May you have another 25 years of serving your great treats and of offering a wonderful social space.

WORKFORCE INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITY ACT

(Mr. PAYNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 803, the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.

This bipartisan legislation being debated today reauthorizes the Workforce Investment Act, which has been instrumental in helping workers get the skills they need for the jobs of today.

In my visits with the Newark Workforce Investment Board and the Essex County Workforce Investment Board, it is clear that we must emphasize the improving of career pathways for our workers.

Further, when we implement jobs training, it is critical we include local input from stakeholders, like our community colleges, faith-based organizations, and labor—to truly break down barriers to employment.

I commend my colleagues on the House Education and the Workforce Committee and on the Senate HELP Committee for their continued commitment to the reauthorization of WIA. I urge my colleagues to vote “yes” on the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.

□ 1230

IMMEDIATE PASSAGE OF COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM

(Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of passage of immigration reform, but I also want to talk about the humanitarian disaster that continues to unfold on the Nation's southern borders.

Tens of thousands of unaccompanied minors are fleeing to America from the drug war raging in the streets of the cities and towns where they live, in Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador.

Those children fortunate enough to survive the treacherous journey to America are not illegals. They are children who need America's mercy and our humanitarian assistance. Immediate deportation without a chance for a fair hearing on their refugee status is morally repugnant and just plain wrong.

This week, the President requested over \$3 billion to deal with this crisis that is a direct consequence of the drug war which America is waging south of the border. Congress must act. America should act as the Good Samaritan.